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Dear Friends of Agriculture,

Farming continues to be one of the most rewarding and challenging professions in New York State. In 2002, New York farmers were faced with challenges including decreased yields due to poor growing conditions and decreased total cash receipts, primarily caused by low milk prices. However, in spite of these challenges, we were able to maintain the amount of farmland acreage in New York State at 7.6 million acres.

This Agricultural Statistics report reflects the activity in 2002 and provides historical data to allow us to track agricultural activity within New York State. This data is graciously provided by farm families throughout the State and serves as an invaluable tool to everyone connected with the agricultural community. Thanks to their efforts, this information allows us to monitor the health and growth of agriculture and provides information for future business and policy decision making for the agriculture industry.



Agriculture is vital to the State's economy, to rural communities and to the open spaces of New York State. Our goal is to continue to ensure a safe, wholesome and high quality food supply and create opportunities and programs that allow our New York farmers to succeed. The information provided within this report will help us accomplish these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. Rudgers".

Nathan L. Rudgers
Commissioner

NEW YORK HIGHLIGHTS

New York is an Agricultural State



Agriculture is important to New York State. Agricultural production returned over \$3.0 billion to the farm economy in 2002. About 25 percent of the state's land area, or 7.6 million acres are used by the 37,000 farms to produce a very diverse array of food products. Here are some of the items in which New York ranks high nationally:

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Dairy and animal production in New York provided \$1.87 billion to farmers in 2002. That accounts for 60 percent of all cash receipts.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk is New York's leading agricultural product and is produced all across the state. Milk sales account for over one-half of total agricultural receipts. Production in 2002 was 12.2 billion pounds with a value of \$1.56 billion. New York is the nation's 3rd leading producer and Wyoming is the State's leading county.

MEAT PRODUCTION

New York livestock producers marketed 211 million pounds of meat animals during 2002 bringing in \$116 million in cash receipts. Sales from **cattle** and **calves** accounted for \$108 million, **hogs** and **pigs** returned \$6.4 million and **sheep** and **lambs** provided \$2.0 million.

POULTRY PRODUCTION

The value of New York **eggs**, **ducks**, **broilers** and **turkeys** plus the value of sales for other chickens totaled \$64.6 million for 2002. Eggs made up \$44.8 million of the total followed by ducks at \$10.9 million. New York ranks 20th among all egg producing states.

CROP PRODUCTION

Field crops, fruits and vegetables returned \$1.2 billion to New York farmers.

FRUITS

New York's fruit crop receipts were valued at \$179 million in 2002. **Apples** and **Grapes** lead New York fruit crops in value.

APPLES

New York ranks 2nd nationally with a crop worth about \$102 million in 2002. Three general areas produce most of the apples: along the southern Lake Ontario shore, along the Hudson Valley, and along the upper Lake Champlain Valley. New York's leading varieties are McIntosh, Empire, Rome, Idared, and Red Delicious.

GRAPES

Wine and juice grape production place New York 3rd behind California and Washington. The crop was worth \$43.3 million in 2002. Two-thirds of the production was for juice and one-third went into wines. The four major producing areas are: Lake Erie area, the Finger Lakes, the Hudson Valley and the eastern end of Long Island.

TART CHERRIES

Production in New York ranks 3rd in the Nation. Production totaled 12.7 million pounds with a value of \$6.42 million.

PEAR

Production ranked 4th in the nation with 9,850 tons and had a value of \$3.68 million.

STRAWBERRIES

Strawberries are the 3rd most valuable fruit in New York and places New York 7th in national production. About 6.30 million pounds were harvested in 2002 and returned \$8.82 million to growers.

VEGETABLES

The value of vegetables totaled \$476 million in 2002. **Fresh Market** vegetables rank 6th and **Processing** vegetables are 9th among all states. Leading crops in New York are **Cabbage**, **Sweet Corn** and **Onions**.

CABBAGE

The nation's leader in production, cabbage is principally grown south of Lake Ontario in Monroe, Genesee, Orleans, Ontario and Niagara counties. New York cabbage is typically stored for sale as fresh during winter months. Value of the fresh market crop in 2002 totaled \$48.6 million.

SWEET CORN

Produced statewide, fresh market sweet corn had a value of \$89.8 million. Concentrations are found in the Lower Hudson Valley and around the Genesee Valley. The 2002 fresh market crop worth \$83.6 million, placed 3rd nationally and the processing crop valued at 6.21 million ranked 6th.

ONIONS

An important crop with receipts of \$33.8 million in 2002. Onions are grown in New York's muck soils in Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Madison and Wayne counties. The state ranked 8th in production for 2002 with 28 million pounds.

SNAP BEANS

Grown in the Central and Western regions for fresh and processing. The 2002 crop was valued at \$48.9 million. Fresh production accounted for 31 percent of the total and puts New York 2nd across the nation. Processing sales of \$11.1 million rank New York 3rd.

OTHER VEGETABLES

Tomatoes (\$24.0 million-8th nationally), Pumpkins (\$23.8 million-1st nationally), Cucumbers (\$22.5 million-4th nationally), Squash (\$18.8 million-5th nationally), Green Peas for processing (\$8.13 million-4th nationally), Cauliflower (\$3.97 million-3rd nationally).

FIELD CROPS

New York produces a variety of field crops largely in support of its dairy industry. Corn, oats and wheat are most widely grown with soybeans steadily increasing importance. New York ranks 3rd in **corn silage**, valued at \$194 million. Production of **grain corn** ranked 21st with a value of \$124 million. Soybean production was valued at \$24.5 million. The state placed 9th in **oat** production, 31st in **wheat** and 26th for soybeans. **Hay** production put New York 17th and was valued at \$374 million in 2002. Most hay is used on farms and its value is realized through sale of milk and livestock. **Potatoes** reached a value of \$64.4 million in 2002 and made New York the 12th leading producer.

MAPLE SYRUP

At \$6.84 million, New York ranks 2nd behind Vermont in value but was 3rd with 210,000 gallons produced behind Vermont and Maine in 2003.

FLORICULTURE CROPS

In 2002, New York floriculture products were valued at \$185 million. **Bedding and garden** plants top the list of commodities. New York's **floriculture** output ranks 6th nationally. A variety of crops are produced in 25 million square feet of covered area and on 1,034 acres of open ground. **Christmas Trees** provide about \$18 million of sales and made New York the 11th leading producer in 2001.



New York

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